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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

an overlay detector configured to perform an overlay detection to detect an overlay of first and second original images which are rendered based on first and second rendering data by first and second graphic rendering instructions, respectively; and

a memory storing the first rendering data contained in the first graphic rendering instruction,

wherein said first and second graphic rendering instructions are sequentially processed, and said first graphic rendering instruction is input immediately preceding said second graphic rendering instruction, and

wherein the overlay detector specifies a portion of the first original image to be overlaid by the second original image upon detecting an overlay of the first and second original images, modifies said first rendering data to omit the specified portion, draws a third output image based on the modified first rendering data in which the specified portion of the first original image is deleted, and stores the modified first rendering data and the second rendering data into the memory, and

wherein if the first original image and the second original image have no overlaid portion, said image processing apparatus renders the first rendering data, and upon rendering said first rendering data, the overlay detector stores the second rendering data presently being processed into the memory.

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2. (original) The image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are configured to be a page description language and each of said graphic rendering instructions are configured to include a fundamental graphic description instruction which handles characters, graphics and images and a rendering attribute instruction handling colors, clipping area designations and rendering arithmetic methods.

3. (original) The image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are configured to be converted into at least one of intermediate data represented by coordinate information and a PDL language.

Claims 4-7 (canceled).

8. (original) The image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the second output image is configured to be overwritten on the third output image.

9. (original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the first and second output image are configured to be drawn with a rendering process based on at least one of a mono chrome, an RGB video color rendering, and a CMYK paint color rendering.

10. (previously presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:
overlay detecting means for performing an overlay detection to detect an overlay of first and second original images which are rendered based on first and second rendering data by first

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and second graphic rendering instructions, respectively; and
a memory storing the first rendering data contained in the first graphic rendering instruction,

wherein said first and second graphic rendering instructions are sequentially processed, and said first graphic rendering instruction is input immediately preceding said second graphic rendering instruction, and

wherein the overlay detecting means detects a portion of the first original image to be overlaid by the second original image upon detecting an overlay of the first and second original images, modifies said first rendering data to omit the specified portion, draws a third output image based on the modified first rendering data in which the specified portion of the first original image is deleted, and stores the modified first rendering data and the second rendering data into the memory.

11. (original) The image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 10, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are a page description language and each of said graphic rendering instructions includes a fundamental graphic description instruction which handles characters, graphics and images and a rendering attribute instruction handling colors, clipping area designations and rendering arithmetic methods.

12. (original) The image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 10, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are converted into at least one of intermediate data represented by coordinate information and a PDL language.

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Claims 13-16 (canceled).

17. (original) The image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 10, wherein the second output image is overwritten in the third output image.

18. (original) The image processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the first and second output image are drawn with a rendering process based on at least one of a mono chrome, an RGB video color rendering, and a CMYK paint color rendering.

19. (previously presented) An image processing method comprising the steps of:
performing an overlay detection to detect an overlay of first and second images which are rendered based on first and second rendering data by first and second graphic rendering instructions, respectively; and
storing the first rendering data contained in the first graphic rendering instruction,
wherein said first and second graphic rendering instructions are sequentially processed,
and said first graphic rendering instruction is input immediately preceding said second graphic rendering instruction, and

wherein the overlay detecting methods specifies a portion of the first original image to be overlaid by the second original image upon detecting an overlay of the first and second original images, modifies said first rendering data to omit the specified portion, draws a third output image based on the modified first rendering data in which the specified portion of the first original image is deleted, and stores the modified first rendering data and the second rendering data into the memory.

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20. (original) The image processing method as defined in Claim 19, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are a page description language and each of said graphic rendering instructions includes a fundamental graphic description instruction which handles characters, graphics and images and a rendering attribute instruction handling colors, clipping area designations and rendering arithmetic methods.

21. (original) The image processing method as defined in Claim 19, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are converted into at least one of intermediate data represented by coordinate information and a PDL language.

Claims 22-25 (canceled).

26. (original) The image processing method as defined in Claim 19, wherein the second output image is overwritten in the third output image.

27. (original) The image processing method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the first and second output image are drawn with a rendering process based on at least one of a mono chrome, an RGB video color rendering, and a CMYK paint color rendering.

28. (previously presented) A printing apparatus comprising:
overlay detecting means for performing an overlay detection to detect an overlay of first and second original images which are rendered based on first and second rendering data by first

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and second graphic rendering instructions, respectively; and
a memory storing the first rendering data contained in the first graphic rendering
instruction,

wherein said first and second graphic rendering instructions are sequentially processed,
and said first graphic rendering instruction is input immediately preceding said second graphic
rendering instruction, and

wherein the overlay detecting means specifies a portion of the first original image to be
overlaid by the second original image upon detecting an overlay of the first and second original
images, modifies said first rendering data to omit the specified portion, draws a third output
image based on the modified first rendering data in which the specified portion of the first
original image is deleted, and stores the modified first rendering data and the second rendering
data into the memory.

29. (original) The printing apparatus as defined in Claim 28, wherein said graphic
rendering instructions are a page description language and each of said graphic rendering
instructions includes a fundamental graphic description instruction which handles characters,
graphics and images and a rendering attribute instruction handling colors, clipping area
designations and rendering arithmetic methods.

30. (original) The printing apparatus as defined in Claim 28, wherein said graphic
rendering instructions are converted into at least one of intermediate data represented by
coordinate information and a PDL language.

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Claims 31-34 (canceled).

35. (original) The printing apparatus as defined in Claim 28, wherein the second output image is overwritten in the third output image.

36. (original) The printing apparatus as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the first and second output image are drawn with a rendering process based on at least one of a mono chrome, an RGB video color rendering, and a CMYK paint color rendering.

37. (previously presented) A host PC which sequentially processes graphic rendering instructions for image data, said host PC comprising:

overlay detecting means for performing an overlay detection to detect an overlay of first and second original images which are rendered based on first and second rendering data by the first and second graphic rendering instructions, respectively; and

a memory storing the first rendering data contained in the first graphic rendering instruction,

wherein said first and second graphic rendering instructions are sequentially processed, and said first graphic rendering instruction is input immediately preceding said second graphic rendering instruction, and

wherein the overlay detecting means specifies a portion of the first original image to be overlaid by the second original image upon detecting an overlay of the first and second original images, modifies said first rendering data to omit the specified portion, draws a third output image based on the modified first rendering data in which the specified portion of the first

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original image is deleted, and stores the modified first rendering data and the second rendering data into the memory.

38. (original) The host PC as defined in Claim 37, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are a page description language and each of said graphic rendering instructions includes a fundamental graphic description instruction which handles characters, graphics and images and a rendering attribute instruction handling colors, clipping area designations and rendering arithmetic methods.

39. (original) The host PC as defined in Claim 37, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are converted into at least one of intermediate data represented by coordinate information and a PDL language.

Claims 40-43 (canceled).

44. (original) The host PC as defined in Claim 37, wherein the second output image is overwritten in the third output image.

45. (original) The host PC as claimed in Claim 42, wherein the first and second output image are drawn with a rendering process based on at least one of a mono chrome, an RGB video color rendering, and a CMYK paint color rendering.

46. (previously presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

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overlay detecting means for performing an overlay detection to detect an overlay of first and second original images which are rendered based on first and second rendering data by first and second graphic rendering instructions, respectively; and

a memory storing the first rendering data contained in the first graphic rendering instruction.

wherein said first and second graphic rendering instructions are sequentially processed, and said first graphic rendering instruction is input immediately preceding said second graphic rendering instruction, and

wherein the overlay detecting means specifies a portion of the first original image to be overlaid by the second original image upon detecting an overlay of the first and second original images, modifies said first rendering data to omit the specified portion, draws a third output image based on the modified first rendering data in which the specified portion of the first original image is deleted, and stores the modified first rendering data and the second rendering data into the memory.

47. (original) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 46, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are a page description language and each of said graphic rendering instructions includes a fundamental graphic description instruction which handles characters, graphics and images and a rendering attribute instruction handling colors, clipping area designations and rendering arithmetic methods.

48. (original) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 46, wherein said graphic rendering instructions are converted into at least one of intermediate data represented by

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coordinate information and a PDL language.

Claims 49-52 (canceled).

53. (original) The image forming apparatus as defined in Claim 46, wherein the second output image is overwritten in the third output image.

54. (original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 51, wherein the first and second output image drawn with a rendering process based on at least one of a mono chrome, an RGB video color rendering, and a CMYK paint color rendering.

55. (previously presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein said portion of the first original image overlaid by the second original image is not rendered.